REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claim 46 is canceled. Claims 1-45 are amended for clarity and in response to formalities rejections. Accordingly, claims 1-45 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

Claim 46 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

In response, Applicants cancel claim 46.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 5, 10, 12, 21, 26, 27, 31, 36, 37 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for recitation of "preferably".

In response, this term has been removed from the claims.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the control module" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In response, claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 15, which provides antecedent basis.

Present invention

Conventionaly, a mobile concrete pump comprises:

(a) a chassis (10) having a "structure" (vehicle main frame) (12), and

(b) a concrete pump (24), a distribution mast (36), and a stabilizing device (38) with extendable support legs (40), mounted to the structure (12) (main frame).

The present invention improves on this design by providing, in between (a) and (b):

(c) a "building" [sub-] frame (22), which can be easily mounted to and removed from

the main frame (12), and onto which the distribution mast (36) and stabilizing device (38) with extendable support legs (40) are connected, and to which the concrete pump is mounted to be easily released.

This new design solves many problems. Conventionally, the concrete pump is welded on the building frame in the area of the water box in such a manner that it can be disassembled only with difficulty. In order to be able to remove the drive aggregate, until now it had been necessary to completely disassemble the core pump. This is very labor intensive and time consuming. Besides this, due to the hydraulic fluid, it is possible for substantial complications to occur.

In contrast, with the present invention, since the concrete pump rests on a floating bearing (54) and is connected to the sub-frame (22) via a releasable fixed bearing (56) arranged at the rear end of the sub-frame, the releasably supported the core pump can be easily released and removed from the sub-frame.

Further, for various types and sizes of the functional units, various drive subassemblies are necessary. The variations in construction resulting therefrom produce a large number of varying installation situations. Therein it must be taken into consideration that the core pump, in an early building stage, must be seated in the building frame and be welded therewith in the area of the water box. For this reason a prefabrication of the building frame is not possible without precise advance notice of the exact version or model of construction.

In contrast, with the present invention, the vehicle can be prepared for receiving any of variously dimensioned subassemblies simply by selecting and attaching to the main frame a suitable subframe, and thereafter sliding into place the concrete pump with attached material supply container. Such a concept is not disclosed in the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takayuki JP 11245710. According to the Examiner, Takayuki teaches all the limitations as claimed for a

mobile concrete pump.

First, Applicants would like to point out that claim 1 has been amended for clarity and conformity with US practice. It is believed that the differences between the present invention as claimed, and the disclosure of Takayuki can be more easily seen from the revised claims.

Turning to Takayuki, Applicants do not have a full translation, but based on the best available Delphion and Derwent abstracts, this reference is concerned with providing a pump block supporting device to satisfy such a condition that a pump block mounted on a chassis frame is close to a hopper, and so that the ground clearance of the hopper is lowered. Supporting frame 20 is disposed on the upper face of a chassis frame 13. The rear end upper face of the supporting frame 20 is angled with a descending slope toward its rear side to form a sloped face 20a. A sub-frame 21 sloped toward its rear side is fixed to the rear end face of the chassis frame 13 and the rear end face of the supporting frame 20 to face its upper face to the sloped face 20a of the rear end upper face of the supporting frame 20. In the more front side than the rear end part of the chassis frame 13, a sub-frame 28 sloped with an ascending slope toward its front side is provided to be adjusted to the sloped face 20a. A casing 1 of a pump block is mounted on the sub-frames 21, 28 and the sloped face 20a. A hopper supporting frame 22 is extended to the backward sub-frame 21 to mount a hopper 9. The sub frame (21) is detachably inclined downward on the rear side of a chassis frame (13) and connected to another sub frame (28) on top of a house and a tree supporting frame (20). The sub frame (21) counterbalances the load, when a hopper (9) of a pump block (I) is mounted on a support frame (22). Improves pump performance and shortens suction pipe by approaching the casing and hopper of the pump block by projecting sub frame, and shifting the pump block casing to rear side of chassis frame. Prevents winding of suction pipe and pumping tube connection by performing linear connection on hopper bottom. Simplifies detachment of sub frame and moves the vehicle by cutting off the pump block and hopper.

In order to anticipate, Takayuki must teach every limitation of the present claims. Takayuki is far from the present design in which a removable subframe is provided between,

- on the one hand, the main frame and,
- on the other hand, support means, distribution boom, and concrete pump,

wherein not only is the sub-frame easily removable from the main frame, but the concrete pump is easily removable from the sub-frame.

Accordingly, considering claim 1 (as amended), Takayuki does not teach the following bolded and italicized limitations:

1. A mobile concrete pump comprising:

a truck chassis (10) including a frame (12)

a sub-frame (22) seated on the (12) of the truck chassis (10) and comprising two longitudinal side members (50) mutually spaced apart by a free space (52) and releasably attached to said frame (12),

a stabilizing device (38) with extendable support legs (40), a core pump (24) with material supply container (32), and functional units which form a distribution mast (36) mounted on said sub-frame (22),

wherein a drive assembly (42) for actuating the functional units, as well as the core pump (24), are located in the free space (52) between the two longitudinal side members (50),

wherein the sub-frame (22) comprises ***a floating bearing (54) linking said side members across the free space***, as well as ***a releasable fixed bearing (56) arranged at the rear end of the sub-frame for releasably supporting the core pump for removal of the core pump from the sub-frame (22)***, which core pump is pre-assembled in modular manner, and the material supply container (32) which is rigidly connected with the core pump.

Indicated Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that

- claims 17-27 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims,
- claims 21, 26, and 27 contain allowable subject matter however the applicant must overcome the rejection under 112 second paragraph, and

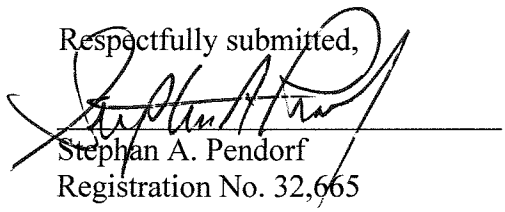
- claims 28-30, 32-35, and 38-45 are allowed.

In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection over prior art has been overcome, the formalities have been attended to, thus all claims are believed allowable.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephan A. Pendorf
Registration No. 32,665

Patent Central LLC
1401 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood, FL 33020-5237
(954) 922-7315

Date: **January 21, 2009**